

**19<sup>th</sup> Special Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the IAI**  
**15 February 2012**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 375**  
**Arlington, Virginia, USA**

**Summary – Decisions and Actions**

1. Opening ceremony
  - Delayed to permit Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to meet prior to the opening of the CoP.
  - Opening Ceremony - presided over by Paul Filmer U.S. Delegate and EC Chair.
  
2. Election of the special CoP Bureau
  - Chair – Paul Filmer – USA
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – Maria Virginia Alves - Brazil
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – Ricardo Jose Lozano Colombia
  
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - The agenda was changed as a result of the pre-CoP meetings between Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay
  - Countries removed their proposals from the table – the time allotted for the country presentations were deleted from the agenda
  - The agenda still provided time for the background, deliberation and decisions on IAI operational issues, report from the credentials committee,
  - The IAI Directorate tabled a tripartite proposal to host the IAI Directorate – the discussions will be focused on this proposal.
  
4. Background (CoP-19), deliberations and decisions on IAI operational issues
  - IAI Director discussed issues of the current operating status. Major operational challenges are:
  - Staff provided by the Government of Brazil are under subcontracts – failed several times in the last 6 years, resulting in the entire Brazilian staff being repeatedly dismissed and partially rehired, sometimes several times in 1 year.
  - Likely staff will again be fired in April – at moment there is no known plan regarding how the Government of Brazil will fulfill its obligation under the Host Country Agreement.

- Staff is also required to be at least tri-lingual, but the salary structure of the subcontracts cannot accommodate this requirement.
- Unlike some other International Treaty Organizations – most IAI staff is required to pay Brazilian income tax – the privileges and immunities need to be better established to make sure the staff is protected.
- Banking laws make it difficult to operate in foreign currencies; therefore many transactions must be conducted in cash.
- Currently have a communications officer in Argentina – this arrangement is working well. The science assistant director position is currently open.

#### 5. Report of the Credentials Committee

- The Credentials committee consisted of:
  - Colombia
  - Costa Rica- reported to the CoP
  - USA
- The CoP-19 had a quorum – and the official accreditation letters were provided to the IAI Directorate.

#### 6. Overview of the Tripartite Proposal – as presented by the IAI Directorate

- Main functions of IAI (from agreement establishing the IAI) are to:
  - Promote regional science cooperation – conduct research on a regional scale that one country alone could not accomplish
  - Improve/build scientific and technical capacity of the region – including infrastructure through standardization, data analysis and exchange, etc.
  - Improve public awareness and provide relevant information to governments of the region to help in decision-making
- There is a need for expanded capabilities for the IAI Directorate – especially for a policy return on science investment – this became obvious when trying to develop a science synthesis for decision-making and policy.
- Directorate has no structure to develop synthesis, assessments and science necessary to link global climate and regional environments
- Under this tripartite model, the IAI Directorate would have distributed functions in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.
- Argentina – currently provides support for science communication aimed at informing decisions – arrangement with current IAI Directorate through IAI communications office located in Buenos Aires.
- IAI-Science-Policy office would be hosted in Argentina - further expand capabilities beyond the current communications office to improve public awareness, provide critical information to governments to help in decision-

making – link this to the IAI member countries.

- Duties would include – develop/manage interactions between IAI and decision-makers, improve link of IAI science to policy of member countries, thereby improving the relevance of IAI science projects – develop strategies from public outreach and events – including regional and global institutions – this office would work to *directly expand the current IAI communications* efforts.
- Brazil's expertise in climate modeling and current capacity of climate change science at INPE would provide a critical new development for the IAI – and for climate change science in general.
- Brazil's experience in open and free data issues/practices would provide a strong basis for new directions and impacts of IAI science.
- Brazil would host the Science Development office to effectively, integrate broad interdisciplinary approaches to provide critical information on the appropriate temporal and spatial scales for effective decision-making. This would help in areas of public health, disaster preparedness and recovery, and land and water use decisions.
- Need to ensure a strong partnership between Science Development and IAI core science projects (i.e., CRN projects).
- Uruguay would host the IAI Directorate's operations management and finance functions. Uruguay's proposal outlined facilities that would greatly enhance the function of the Directorate – provide staffing stability, excellent communications and more consistent/easier financial transactions than current situation.
- Management of the Directorate and overall integration of the IAI would be from the Uruguay office.
- Workshops and capacity building would be supported by using local facilities in Montevideo.

7. Discussion of Tripartite Host Country arrangement - major questions/issues:

- Need to determine if this approach is viable according to the rules and procedures - is there anything that precludes a tripartite host country agreement?- *this should be confirmed by the ad hoc committee.*
- The new arrangement needs *to be neutral to the core budget* of the IAI
- The two new offices need to have clearly defined roles that do not duplicate the current directorate functions
- The new positions should be at a high enough level to attract well qualified people - i.e. at the Directors level
- These two new positions will report to the current Executive Director – located in Uruguay

- Should look into the arrangement of the UN structures for position descriptions and chain of command – Director General, Directors etc.
- Clear chain of command needs to be established – new positions need to have new duties
- Science development in Brazil - should work with the SAC to identify new areas of science that could enhance the IAI science portfolio – SAC would still have input on science excellence and work with Executive Director in Uruguay on CRN activities
- Make sure that the new offices have new responsibilities that expand and complement the current IAI directorate activities and work to enhance the goals of the IAI.
- Concern expressed that the new offices don't provide a bureaucratic barrier but should enhance the flow of communication, capacity building efforts etc.
- Science development office should help develop new partnerships needed to expand IAI science – leverage existing projects and help provide a way to integrate current ideas into new science endeavors.
- A transition to the new structure that does adversely affect the IAI needs to be established – cannot negatively impact the IAI operations and especially the science projects.
- Terms of reference and job descriptions of the new positions need to be explicit – clearly define roles of all positions
- Need to make sure that all proposed ideas do not contradict the agreement establishing the IAI and that the new functions/arrangements enhance – not negatively impact – the IAI science
- Three countries should draft a new proposal together with IAI directorate and other interested parties. Need to develop an ad hoc committee to draft the tripartite proposal – using the IAI directorate proposal as a base.
- Legal review should be done to make sure all ideas are in line with the IAI agreement and other applicable statutes, etc.
- Countries will have to clearly provide what is on the table in terms of space, in-kind support, facilities etc. Job descriptions will be particularly important – need to check that these are complementary to existing IAI staff positions – not duplicative.
- An analysis of the cost impact of the tripartite arrangement will need to be included – want to have a neutral impact on the IAI budget
- Clear communications/integration plan should be developed to ensure a smooth transition
- Clear governance structure is critical – roles and responsibilities and accountability needs to be established in the arrangement

- A clear roadmap – timeline needs to be established that outlines, who does what by when – in the proposal – this will help with accountability.
- Overall governance structure (CoP, Directorate, SAC etc) needs to remain or we will have to ratify a new agreement – this is not desirable.
- New roles cannot negatively impact the current governance structure – the new roles must enhance existing capabilities.
- Ad hoc committee will consist of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Uruguay, and the United States – IAI Director will also be involved to represent the IAI. Canada will be chair, pending Canadian ministry approval.

#### 8. Procedural points and reminders

- According to the Rules Committee there is nothing that precludes the Directorate being located in three countries.
- The ad hoc committee will look into legal advice to ensure that the recommendations in the tripartite proposal are consistent with and not in conflict with the IAI agreement.
- New activities need to be within the mandate of the IAI.
- New roles need to be consistent with the roles and responsibilities outlined in the IAI agreement.

## 9. Decision on the future of the IAI Directorate

- The following resolution and terms of reference for the ad hoc committee were drafted by the CoP: 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research

### **Resolution**

We agree that the opportunity that is provided by the offers from three Parties to help the IAI in its unique tasks of developing the continent's capacity to understand and deal with global change must be taken up.

We agree that the Directorate needs a greater capacity to manage science, insert scientific knowledge in the policy process, and to develop future science directions. We agree that a stronger structure is needed to manage these increased functions, and that two additional Directors are needed: one for science development and one for communications and policy. These two Directors will report to the Executive Director.

We agree that this should be implemented in a manner neutral to the IAI Core Budget.

We agree that this strengthening of the IAI's capacity is best fulfilled by a distributed Directorate based on a tripartite offer to host the IAI by the three countries, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

We agree that the science development activity be hosted in the current facilities in São José dos Campos, Brazil, that the communications and policy be hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and that the overall coordination and integration be hosted in Montevideo, Uruguay.

We agree that an ad hoc committee consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Uruguay, and the United States shall prepare a detailed tripartite proposal for consideration by CoP-20 in June 27-29 2012.

### **Terms of Reference for the ad hoc committee**

The committee is composed by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Uruguay, and the United States. The Director shall serve in his ex officio capacity.

The committee shall carry out its business by correspondence to the extent possible, however the committee may consider the necessity of a face-to-face meeting.

The committee shall prepare a full proposal for consideration by CoP-20 in June 27-29 2012.

The proposal shall be prepared in the English language, however the authentic copies of the host country agreements shall be in the language of the host country.

The proposal shall contribute to the central aims of the Institute, and not detract from these. The proposal shall address: transitional arrangements, governance

structures, accountability, costs, integration between sites, specific task distribution, host country agreements, and a timeline that aims for implementation by the end of 2012.

The committee may invite legal expertise to analyze the impact of a tripartite arrangement on the IAI Agreement.

The report shall be made available to the Parties through the Directorate by May 25, 2012.